

### Amendments to the Claims

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method executed by a distribution device of adapting data according to a set of parameters associated with a network segment that is downstream from the distribution device, comprising:

receiving at the distribution device instructions, wherein the instructions instruct the distribution device to adapt the data;

receiving the data from a sending device;

adapting the data to conform to the set of parameters associated with the network segment, wherein the set of parameters include a plurality of disparate routing parameters for determining an optimal path among a plurality of available paths along the network segment; and

transmitting the adapted data along the network segment based on at least one of the plurality of disparate routing parameters.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein adapting the data further comprises adjusting a packet size of the data according to bandwidth restrictions of the network segment.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein adapting the data further comprises replicating the data.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising transmitting the set of parameters from the distribution device ~~means~~ to a network administrator.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting the set of parameters occurs when the distribution device ~~means~~ detects a change in the set of parameters.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein transmitting the set of parameters occurs when the network administrator detects a change in the set of parameters.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting data from a central source to a plurality of receiving devices where at least two of the receiving devices are located on disparate segments of a communications network, comprising:

a network device for ~~distribution~~ distributing a plurality of sets of instructions, wherein the plurality of sets ~~each set~~ of instructions is for adapting the data according to a plurality of sets ~~set~~ of transmission parameters associated with a backbone and a plurality of disparate segments ~~segment~~ of the communications network; and

a central server, comprising:

a receiver for receiving at least one of the plurality of sets of instructions from the network ~~administration~~ device;

a processor for implementing the at least one of the plurality of sets ~~set~~ of instructions to adapt the data according to the transmission parameters associated with the backbone segment; and

a transmitter for transmitting the adapted data along the backbone; and ~~to at least one distribution device along the segment.~~

a distribution device along each of the plurality of disparate segments,  
comprising:

a receiver for receiving the adapted data from the central server along the backbone and for receiving at least one of the plurality of sets of instructions to further adapt the data according to at least one of the plurality of sets of transmission parameters associated with at least one of the plurality of disparate segments;

a processor for implementing each received set of instructions; and

a transmitter for transmitting the adapted data to at least one receiving device.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of sets ~~set~~ of transmission parameters specifies bandwidth restrictions of ~~[[I]]~~ at least one of the plurality of disparate segments ~~network segment that is~~ downstream from the central server.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of sets ~~set~~ of transmission parameters specifies maximum transmission unit (MTU) restrictions of at least one of the plurality of disparate segments ~~network segment that is down-stream~~ downstream from the central server.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of sets ~~set~~ of transmission parameters specifies protocol restrictions of at least one of the plurality of disparate segments ~~network segment that is~~ downstream from the central server

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of sets ~~set~~ of transmission parameters specifies routing restrictions of at least one of the plurality of disparate segments ~~network segment that is~~ downstream from the central server.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein at least one of the plurality of sets ~~the set~~ of instructions instructs the central server to replicate the stream of data.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 ~~21~~, wherein the transmitter in the distribution device is a means for transmitting the at least one of the plurality of sets ~~set~~ of transmission parameters to the network device administrator.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the processor in the distribution device is a means for detecting a change in the at least one of the plurality of sets ~~set~~ of transmission parameters, ~~whereupon the transmitter transmits the set of parameters.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the transmitter in the distribution device transmits the at least one of the plurality of sets ~~set~~ of transmission parameters when the network device administrator detects a change in the at least one of the plurality of sets ~~set~~ of transmission parameters.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 21, wherein the transmitter in the central server is a means for transmitting a request to receive instructions.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 21, wherein the transmitter in the central server is a means for transmitting a request to receive data.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 21, wherein the processor in the central server is a means for addressing the data.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 21, wherein the processor in the distribution device implements each received set of ~~the~~ instructions by adjusting a packet size of the data according to bandwidth restrictions of the at least one of the plurality of segments network segment.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 21, wherein the processor in the distribution device implements each received set of ~~the~~ instructions by routing the data according to routing restrictions of the at least one of the plurality of segments.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13 21, wherein the processor in the distribution device implements each received set of ~~the~~ instructions by replicating the data.

31-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon executable code which causes a distribution device to perform a method of adapting data according to a set of parameters associated with a network segment that is downstream from the distribution device, the method comprising:

receiving at the distribution device instructions, wherein the instructions instruct the distribution device to adapt the data;

receiving the data from a sending device;

adapting the data to conform to the set of parameters associated with the network segment, wherein the set of parameters include a plurality of disparate routing parameters for determining an optimal path among a plurality of available paths along the network segment; and transmitting the adapted data along the network segment based on at least one of the plurality of disparate routing parameters.

37. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 36, wherein adapting the data further comprises adjusting a packet size of the data according to bandwidth restrictions of the network segment.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 36, wherein adapting the data further comprises replicating the stream of data.

40. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 36, the method further comprising transmitting the set of parameters from the distribution means to a network administrator.

41. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 40, wherein transmitting the set of parameters occurs when the distribution means detects a change in the set of parameters.

42. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 40, wherein transmitting the set of parameters occurs when the network administrator detects a change in the set of parameters.

43. (Currently Amended) A method executed by a distribution device of transmitting a set of parameters associated with a network segment to a centralized server that is upstream from the distribution device, comprising:

receiving, at the distribution device, a set of parameters representing the transmission characteristics of the network segment wherein the set of parameters include a plurality of disparate routing parameters for determining an optimal path among a plurality of available paths along the network segment; and

transmitting the set of parameters to the centralized server.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43 further comprising:  
receiving, at the distribution device, data from the centralized server, wherein the data is adapted by the centralized server according to the set of parameters; and  
transmitting the adapted data along the network segment.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein transmitting the set of parameters occurs when there is a change in the set of parameters.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein adapting the data comprises adjusting a packet size of the data according to bandwidth restrictions of the network segment.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein adapting the data further comprises replicating the data.